

## Supplementary Information

### An unprecedented 3D 8-connected pure inorganic framework based on nanosized $\{[\text{Na}_{12}\text{PO}_{16}\text{H}_{24}]\subset[\text{P}_4\text{Mo}_6\text{O}_{31}\text{H}_6]_4\}^{15-}$ clusters and zinc cations

Dong-Ying Du, Jun-Sheng Qin, Yang-Guang Li, Ya-Qian Lan\*, Xin-Long Wang, Kui-Zhan Shao, Zhong-Min Su\* and En-Bo Wang

*Institute of Functional Material Chemistry, Key Lab of Polyoxometalate Science of Ministry of Education, Faculty of Chemistry, Northeast Normal University, Changchun 130024, P. R. China.*

*Fax: +86-431-85684009; Tel: +86-431-85099108. E-mail: [zmsu@nenu.edu.cn](mailto:zmsu@nenu.edu.cn).*

### 1. Materials and Measurements

All the chemicals were obtained from commercial sources, and were used without further purification. Elemental analyses (C, H and N) were measured on a Perkin-Elmer 2400 CHN elemental analyzer; Mo, Zn and P were determined with a Plasma-SPEC(I) ICP atomic emission spectrometer. IR spectrum was performed in the range 4000-400 cm<sup>-1</sup> using KBr pellets on an Alpha Centaur FT/IR spectrophotometer. Powder X-ray diffraction measurement was recorded radiation ranging from 5 to 50° at room temperature on a Siemens D5005 diffractometer with Cu-K $\alpha$  ( $\lambda = 1.5418 \text{ \AA}$ ). Diffuse reflectivity was measured from 200 to 2000 nm using barium sulfate (BaSO<sub>4</sub>) as a standard with 100% reflectance on a Varian Cary 500 UV-Vis spectrophotometer. Thermogravimetric analysis (TGA) of the samples was performed using a Perkin-Elmer TG-7 analyzer heated from room temperature to 1000 °C under nitrogen at the heating rate of 5 °C·min<sup>-1</sup>. A conventional three-electrode system was employed to study the cyclic voltammetric behavior and electrocatalysis toward H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>. The glass carbon electrode was used as a working electrode; saturated calomel electrode as a reference electrode; Pt coil as a counter electrode, and the 0.1 mol·L<sup>-1</sup> Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub> + H<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub> (pH = 3) solution was used as electrolyte.

### 2. Synthesis

Synthesis of **1**: A mixture of Na<sub>2</sub>MoO<sub>4</sub>·2H<sub>2</sub>O (1.5 g, 6.20 mmol) and H<sub>3</sub>PO<sub>3</sub> (0.12 g, 1.46 mmol) in 10 mL of water was adjusted the pH to 4 ~ 5 and stirred for 20 min. And then ZnCl<sub>2</sub> (0.10 g, 0.73 mmol) were added to the mixture, stirring for another 20 min, and then transferred and sealed in a 23 mL Teflonlined stainless steel container, which was heated at 170 °C for 5 days, and then cooled to room temperature at 10 °C·min<sup>-1</sup>, deep red octahedral crystals suitable for X-ray crystallography were obtained, washed with distilled water and then air-dried to give **1** in 62% yield (based on P). Elemental analysis: Anal. Calc.: H 2.03; Mo 35.37; Zn 6.03; P 8.09. Found: H 2.06; Mo 35.42; Zn 5.96; P 8.07%.

### 3. Crystallographic data for **1**

Crystallographic data for **1** ( $\text{H}_{131}\text{Mo}_{24}\text{Na}_{12}\text{O}_{180}\text{P}_{17}\text{Zn}_6$ ),  $M_r = 6509.20$ , cubic, space group  $Fd\cdot3c$ ,  $a = 40.5056(14)$  Å,  $V = 66458(4)$  Å<sup>3</sup>,  $Z = 16$ ,  $\mu = 2.924$  mm<sup>-1</sup>,  $D_c = 2.602$  g cm<sup>-3</sup>,  $F(000) = 50336$ , 2450 unique ( $R_{\text{int}} = 0.0807$ ),  $R_1 = 0.0580$ ,  $wR_2 = 0.1620$  ( $I > 2\sigma(I)$ ),  $GOF = 1.099$ ,  $T = 293(2)$  K. Max./min. residual electron density 1.855 and -1.979 e Å<sup>-3</sup>. A total of 76458 data were measured in the range  $1.42^\circ < \theta < 25.00^\circ$ . The data were corrected for absorption by the multi-scan. The H atoms have not been located, but were included into the formula directly. CCDC 796531.

#### 4. the redox titration experiment

##### (1) Preparation of KMnO<sub>4</sub> solution (its concentration is approximately 0.01 mol·L<sup>-1</sup>)

Note: The solution should be boiled for 2 hour in order to deoxidize, and then stored in a brown bottle.

##### (2) Calibration of the concentration of KMnO<sub>4</sub> solution with Na<sub>2</sub>C<sub>2</sub>O<sub>4</sub>

Note: (i) addition of 15 drops H<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub> (18 mol·L<sup>-1</sup>) to each simple solution; (ii) 70 °C water bath.

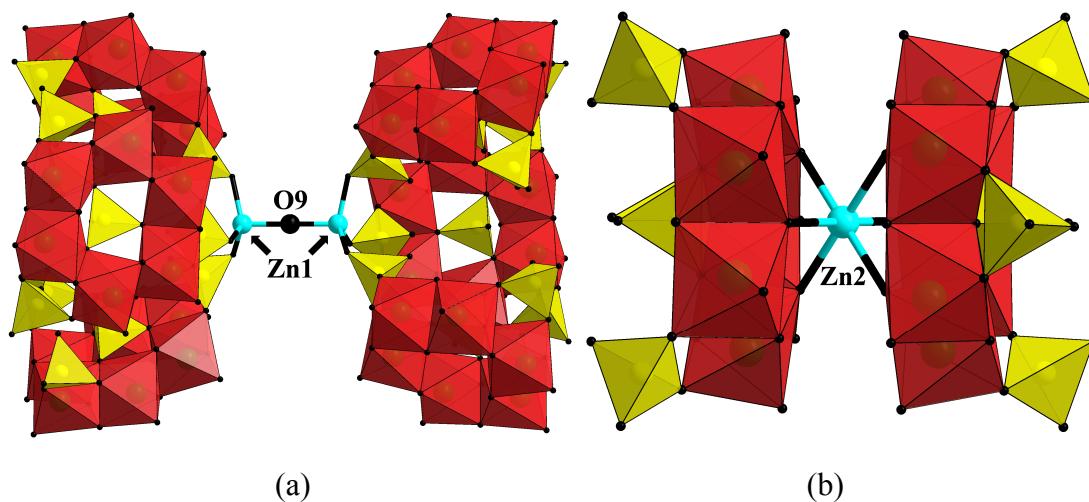
##### (3) Determination of the oxidation state of Mo

The titration method is similar with (2); the only difference is that the sample is the mixture of a certain amount of compound **1** and Na<sub>2</sub>C<sub>2</sub>O<sub>4</sub>.

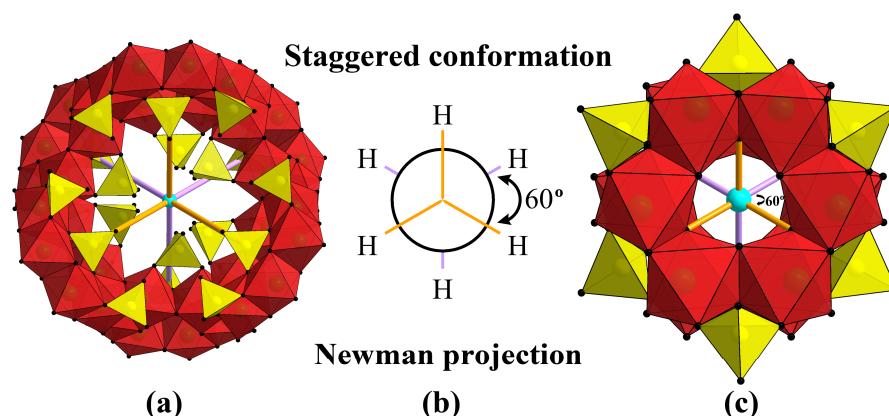
**Conclusion:** The redox titration of compound **1** was carried out in acidic solutions against standardized KMnO<sub>4</sub> solution. The results showed that the oxidation state of Mo is +5 in **1**.

#### 5. the detail description of coordinated environment of zinc ions

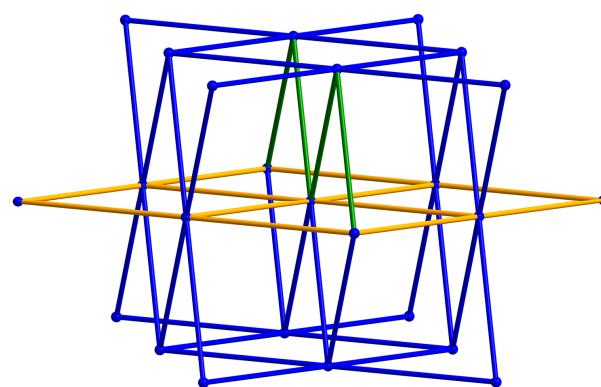
Every two {ZnO<sub>4</sub>} tetrahedra share one oxygen atom (O9) and bridge six distinct {P<sub>4</sub>Mo<sub>6</sub>} moieties from two tetrameric clusters to give a {Zn<sub>2</sub>O<sub>7</sub>} unit, which can be viewed as two ‘bowls’ connecting in the bottom-to-bottom fashion (Fig. S1a, ESI†). Each octahedral divalent zinc cation connects two {P<sub>4</sub>Mo<sub>6</sub>} fragments from two tetrameric clusters generating a sandwich-shaped [Zn(P<sub>4</sub>Mo<sub>6</sub>)<sub>2</sub>] dimer, which can be viewed as two ‘plates’ connecting in the back-to-back mode (Fig. S1b, ESI†). The most fascinating and peculiar structural feature of **1** is that not only {ZnO<sub>6</sub>} units but {Zn<sub>2</sub>O<sub>7</sub>} units can be considered to adopt the staggered conformation (Fig. S2, ESI†).



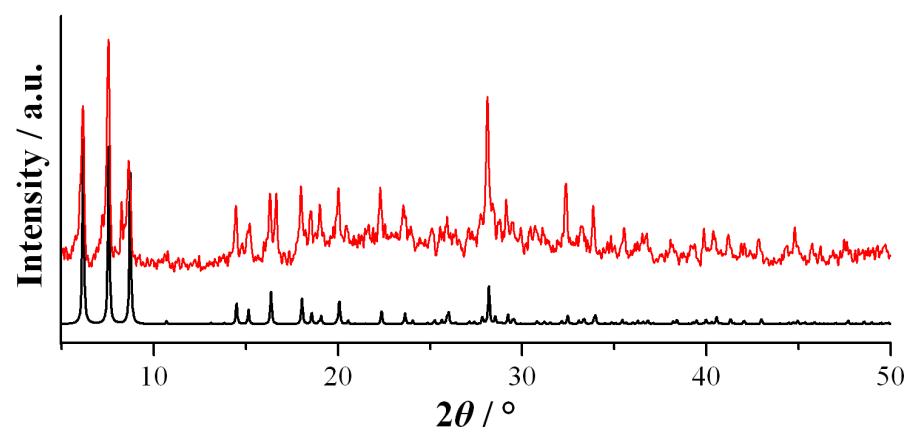
**Fig. S1.** View of connectivity modes of Zn1 (a) and Zn2 (b) centers.



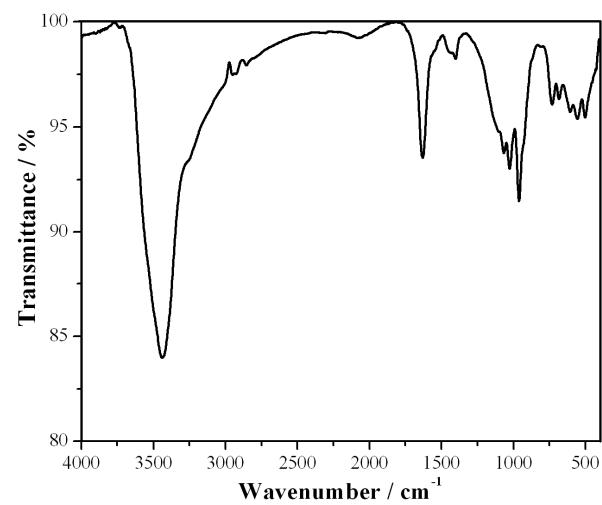
**Fig. S2** Both Zn1 and Zn2 centers linked  $\{P_4Mo_6\}$  units in *staggered* conformations.



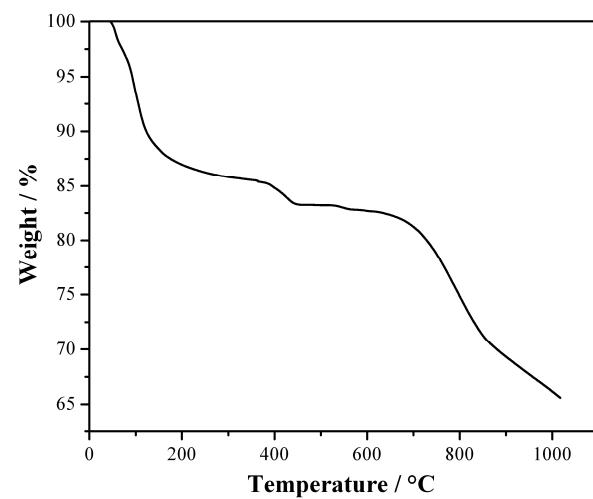
**Fig. S3.** Schematic representation of the eight-connected **bcu** topology in 1



**Fig. S4** The XRPD pattern (top) and simulated pattern (bottom) of **1**.

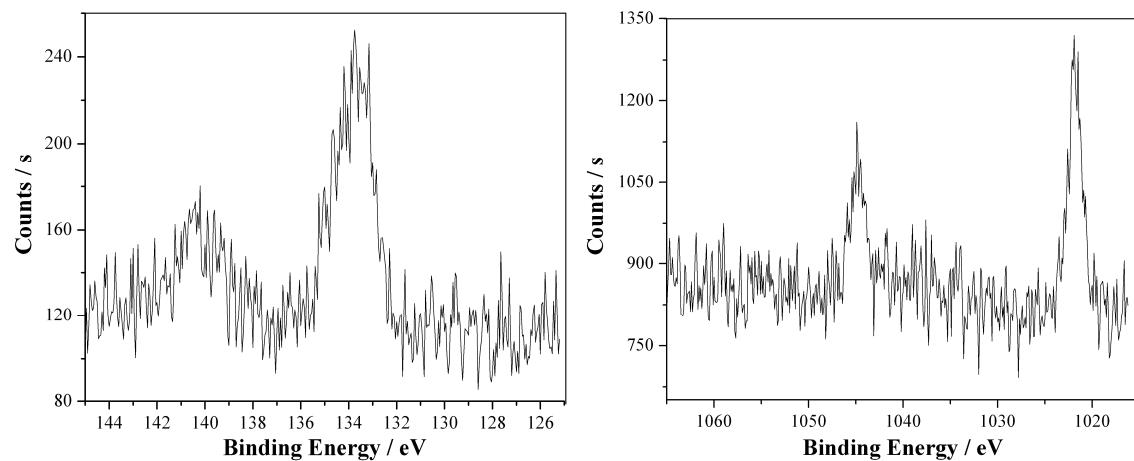


**Fig. S5.** The IR spectrum of **1** in KBr pellets from 4000 cm<sup>-1</sup> to 400 cm<sup>-1</sup>.

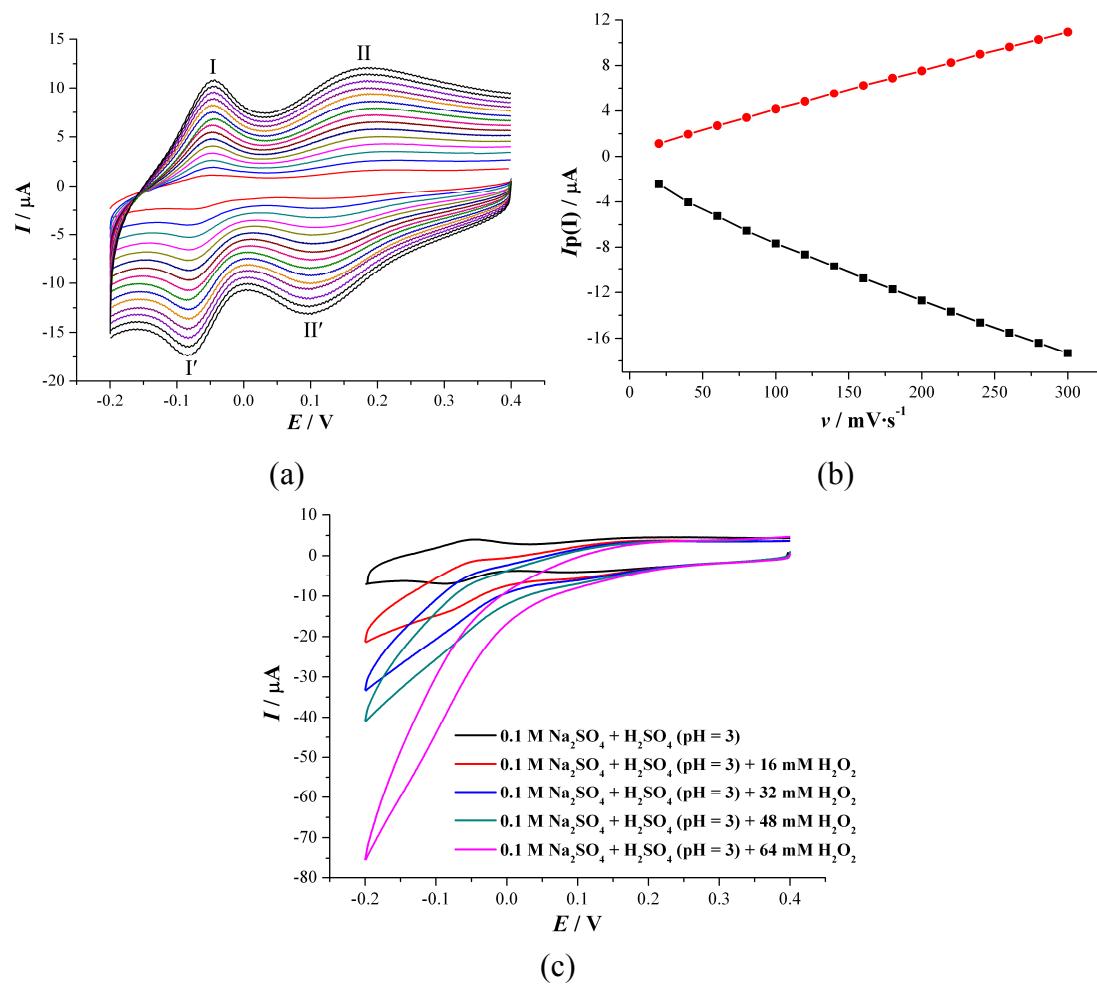


**Fig. S6.** The TGA curve of **1** measured under N<sub>2</sub> atmosphere from room temperature to 1000 °C at the

heating rate of  $5\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}\cdot\text{min}^{-1}$ .



**Fig. S7.** The XPS spectra of compound **1**, (a) P and (b) Zn.



**Fig. S8.** (a) The cyclic voltammograms of **1** in  $0.1\text{ mol}\cdot\text{L}^{-1}\text{ Na}_2\text{SO}_4 + \text{H}_2\text{SO}_4$  ( $\text{pH} = 3$ ) at different scan rates (from inner to outer: 20, 40, 60, 80, 100, 120, 140, 160, 180, 200, 220, 240, 260, 280, 300  $\text{mV}\cdot\text{s}^{-1}$ ); (b) The plots of the anodic and the cathodic peak I–I' currents against scan rates for **1**–CPE; (c) Cyclic voltammograms of **1** in  $0.1\text{ mol}\cdot\text{L}^{-1}\text{ Na}_2\text{SO}_4 + \text{H}_2\text{SO}_4$  ( $\text{pH} = 3$ ) containing different

concentrations of H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> (at the scan rate of 100 mV·s<sup>-1</sup>).

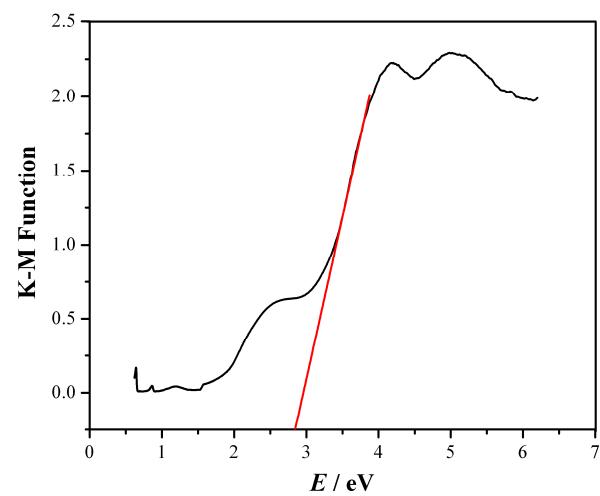


Fig. S9. Diffuse reflectance UV-Vis spectrum of K-M function versus  $E$  (eV) of compound **1**.